

Dear Friends,

I send my warmest greetings to all of you gathered together to celebrate my husband's Centennial year and unveil a statue in his honor. It means a great deal to me that his Presidency has made such an impact, and I am touched by today's ceremony in Warsaw to recognize his accomplishments.

Ronnie always said he wasn't a great communicator but he just communicated great things. It seems that was an understatement.

My husband always felt a very strong bond with the people in Poland who longed for freedom. I remember the Christmas in 1981 when we placed candles in our White House windows, in honor of Solidarity, as he was determined that America would do everything it could to advance liberty. Above all, he knew in his heart that the Polish people were "free to choose, would choose freedom."

Today, he would be delighted to see that millions of Polish patriots are living free and prosperous lives. He would be gratified to know that the fight continues to resist oppression. And he would be humbled by the recognition he is receiving for his own efforts on behalf of freedom and democracy.

I wish I could be there to see the statue of my husband in person. Your presence honors my husband's memory, and I am deeply grateful to you all.

Sincerely,

Nancy Reagan